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A cursory examination of this first volume will convince the reader of the critical judgment that has been exercised in the selection of the essays published, and such names as Maitland, Pollock, Jenks, Stubbs, Bryce, Beale and others guarantee the value of the publication, were any guarantee needed.

There are twenty-one essays included in this volume grouped together under the following historical subdivisions: Before the Norman Conquest; From the Norman Conquest to the Eighteenth Century; The American Colonial Period; Expansion and Reform of the Law in the Nineteenth Century, and Bench and Bar from Norman Times to the Nineteenth Century.

It is, of course, impossible for us to consider these essays with any hope of adequate criticism. All have appeared before, scattered principally through the pages of various legal periodicals. With many of them the intelligent part of the profession is already familiar. It is gratifying to find them now offered in a form making them available as a part of a lawyer's library, as well as making possible their use in the various law schools of the country in connection with the constantly increasing regard for the historical development of various branches of the law.

The committee in charge of the publication is composed of Prof. Ernst Freund, of the University of Chicago; Prof. William E. Mikell, of the University of Pennsylvania; and Prof. John H. Wigmore, of Northeastern University.

H. W. B.

THE PREPARATION AND CONTEST OF WILLS, with Plans of and Extracts from Important Wills. By DANIEL S. REMSEN, of the New York Bar. New York: Baker, Voorhis & Company. 1907. Pp. xli, 839.

The character of this book is well explained by its author in his preface, where he states his intention to be to adopt the *ante mortem* rather than the *post mortem* point of view. Its purpose is to equip the practitioner to advise a client fully and intelligently as to the various modes of disposition of his property open to him, and to enable the attorney, having received instructions, to draw the will with precision and accuracy. It is not intended as an authority upon the interpretation of the intricacies of wills of doubtful meaning, and does not pretend to compete with such a treatise as Jarman's either in its scope or in its profound scholarship. In its own field it is a book which is without doubt of practical value in connection with the drawing of wills.

It is to be commended to the younger members of the bar, not on account of its being elementary in character, but because it is especially helpful to those members of the pro-

fession who have not by experience become familiar with the situations likely to arise in connection with the settlement of estates, and against which it is incumbent on them to guard. Too often these essentials are learned only after regrettable experience where proper provisions have been omitted, and books which will really help the young attorney in avoiding probable, but often inexcusable, mistakes and omissions are not numerous. To this class, however, we regard this book as belonging.

It is unnecessary to indicate the classification of the subject matter. Suffice it to say that the division of the topics is not novel, but the treatment is clear and comprehensive. While, as we have indicated, the work is not an exhaustive treatise on the validity and construction of wills, it sets forth in excellent fashion just those rules with respect to wills and estates created thereunder and with respect to allied matters, which are necessary to the attorney who would draw a will with knowledge of the alternative provisions open to the testator, and the form of execution required to give the instrument validity.

An excellent feature of the book consists of extracts from important wills drawn by eminent counsel and exhibiting forms of testamentary disposition which provide for complex and unusual situations as well as for the more customary though frequently involved trusts. This part of the book covers over three hundred pages, and possesses no little value. Many lawyers would, we feel sure, regard it as sufficient to entitle the book to favorable consideration. *H. W. B.*

THE LAW OF MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE. By FRANK KEEZER, of the Boston Bar. Boston: William J. Nagel. 1906. Pp. xvii, 609.

This work gives every evidence of a great deal of research on the part of the author. It attempts to condense and place in handy form for rapid reference the various and often divergent statutes of all the states relating to marriage and divorce, and to cite the leading cases on these subjects in every jurisdiction. The form of the book is logical. It treats first of the inception of the institution of marriage, and then proceeds to consider by regular steps the causes and form of its dissolution and the topics such as alimony, custody of children, etc., which are necessarily incident thereto.

It is believed that this book will be of great service to the busy lawyer who wants to decide divorce problems in a hurry. This will be especially true when the problem arises with relation to the law of a State other than his own.

T. J. G.